

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Application are claims 21, 23, 25-27 and 30. Claim 30 has been added. No new matter is inserted into the claims. In view of Applicants' remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21, 23, 25-27 and 30 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present Response be considered and entered, the rejections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the case now be passed to issue.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1 and 5 over Kleinguenthaler

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 5 as being anticipated by Kleinguenthaler.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 5. Thus, Applicants believe the outstanding rejection to now be moot.

Should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues, via an Examiner's Amendment or the like.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 10 and 21 over Leffel et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10 and 21 as being anticipated by Leffel.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 10. Thus, Applicants believe that the outstanding rejection to claim 10 is now moot.

In addition, and again merely to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 21 to include the objected to subject matter of claim 22. Thus, Applicants believe that amended claim 21 is now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues, via an Examiner's Amendment or the like.

New Claim 30

Applicants have newly presented claim 30, which reflects objected to dependent claim 29 being placed in independent form, as suggested by the outstanding Final Office Action.

Applicants therefore believe that claim 30 is allowable over the cited prior art of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated the allowance of claims 25-27, for which Applicants gratefully acknowledge.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21, 23, 25-27 and 30 are allowable, and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present Amendment After Final is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner and contains no new matter. Further, Applicants believe that the present Amendment is merely formal in nature, is in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, reduces the number of issues under consideration and places the case in condition for allowance. Applicants believe the present Amendment was necessitated by the outstanding Final Office Action and submits that the present amendments to the claims were not previously made as the prior claims were believed to be allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the present Amendment After Final be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116 and the case be passed to issue.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to expedite resolution of any issues that the Examiner may consider to remain unresolved. In particular, should a Notice of Allowance not be forthcoming, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned for a telephonic interview, an Examiner's Amendment, or the like, while the outstanding issues are fresh in the mind of the Examiner.

It is believed that no fees or deficiencies in fees are owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Nicholas J. Tuccillo/
Nicholas J. Tuccillo, Esq.
Registration No. 44,322
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Customer No. 35301
McCORMICK, PAULDING & HUBER LLP
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103-4102
Tel: (860) 549-5290/Fax: (413) 733-4543